

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 NAIROBI 02098 121346Z

47

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 IO-10 SCCT-01 SY-05 OPR-02 A-01 PC-01

/088 W

----- 009217

P R 121300Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1845

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L NAIROBI 2098

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS ASEC KE

SUBJ: TENSIONS RISE AS BODY OF MISSING MP FOUND

REF: NAIROBI 1518 (NOTAL); 1667 (NOTAL); 1829; 1992 (NOTAL);  
2089 (NOTAL)

1. THE BODY OF J.M. KARIUKI, POPULAR NORTHERN KIKUYU MP AND LEADING CRITIC OF THE KIAMBU KIKUYU ESTABLISHMENT WCY HAD BEEN MISSING SINCE MARCH 2 (NAIROBI 1992), WAS LOCATED IN A CITY MORGUE ON THE AFTERNOON OF MARCH 11 BY MEMBERS OF HIS FAMILY, WHO ALERTED MP'S AND THE PRESS. ALTHOUGH THE BODY HAD APPARENTLY BEEN IN THE MORGUE SINCE MARCH 3, THE POLICE HAD NOT NOTIFIED THE FAMILY, OSTENSIBLY BECAUSE THEY HAD BEEN UNABLE TO POSITIVELY IDENTIFY IT BECAUSE OF ITS QTE DECOMPOSED UNQTE CONDITION. KARIUKI HAD APPARENTLY BEEN BEATEN AS WELL AS SHOT IN THE CHEST AND NECK.

2. IT IS WIDELY PRESUMED HERE THAT KARIUKI WAS MURDERED ON ORDERS OF THE KIAMBU KIKUYU CLIQUE SURROUNDING PRESIDENT KENYATTA, PROBABLY WITH THE PRESIDENT'S KNOW-  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 NAIROBI 02098 121346Z

LEDGE AND BLESSING. PRESUMPTION BASED ON WELL CIRCULATED

STORIES LINKING PRESIDENTIAL ESCORT UNIT OR OTHER GOVERNMENT SECURITY AGENTS TO KARIUKI'S DISAPPEARANCE AND SUBSEQUENT POLICE INACTION IN TRYING TO SOLVE CASE. KARIUKI HAS LONG BEEN A THORN IN THE ESTABLISHMENT'S SIDE, AND IT MAY HAVE CONCLUDED THAT, BY HIS CRITICISM OF CORRUPTION AND LAND GRABBING BY HIGH OFFICIALS, HE WAS INCITING IF NOT ACTUALLY INSTIGATING THE ACTS OF VIOLENCE, INCLUDING BOMBINGS, CROP BURNINGS AND CATTLE KILLING, THAT HAVE SWEEPED KENYA RECENTLY (NAIROBI'S 1669). KARIUKI'S DEATH CAN ALSO BE SEEN AS PART OF THE CONTINUING FRICTION BETWEEN THE NORTHERN KIKUYU CLANS IN NYERI AND MURANGA, AND THE SOUTHERN KIAMBU CLAN, WITH THE NORTHERNERS FEELING THEY CARRIED THE BURDEN OF THE FIGHTING DURING THE INDEPENDENCE STRUGGLE ONLY TO HAVE THE POWER AND LAND GO TO THE KIAMBU.

3. NAIROBI HAS BEEN TENSE SINCE THE HEADLINED ANNOUNCEMENT OF KARIUKI'S MURDER ON THE MORNING OF MARCH 12. POLICE ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF DISTURBANCES BY STUDENTS AND BY RESIDENTS FROM THE POORER AREAS OF THE CITY, WHERE KARIUKI WAS REGARDED AS A HERO. MANY SHOPS HAVE CLOSED, BUT OTHERWISE NAIROBI OUTWARDLY CALM. A SOMBRE PARLIAMENT CONVENED BRIEFLY TODAY, HEARD PREPARED EULOGY BY SPEAKER, AND ADJOURNED UNTIL TOMORROW, THEREBY POSTPONING ANTICIPATED SHARP QUESTIONING OF GOVERNMENT BY KARIUKI'S POLITICAL ALLIES. MORE DANGEROUS, FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF KENYA'S STABILITY, IS THE POSSIBILITY THAT KARIUKI'S DEATH MAY TRIGGER INTRA-TRIBAL KILLING BETWEEN THE NYERI AND MURANGA KIKUYU AND THE KIAMBU. IF THIS OCCURS, IT COULD SEVERELY STRAIN THE FABRIC OF THIS GOVERNMENT, PARTICULARLY AS MANY NORTHERN KIKUYU ARE FOUND IN THE VARIOUS SECURITY SERVICES.

MARSHALL

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MURDER, PRESS COMMENTS, PUBLIC ATTITUDES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 12 MAR 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** KelleyW0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975NAIROB02098  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750086-0689  
**From:** NAIROBI  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19750358/aaaacajc.tel  
**Line Count:** 95  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION AF  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 75 NAIROBI 1518, 75 (NOTA 1667, 75 (NOTA 1829, 75 1992  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** KelleyW0  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 01 JUL 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <01 JUL 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <05 NOV 2003 by KelleyW0>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** TENSIONS RISE AS BODY OF MISSING MP FOUND  
**TAGS:** PINS, ASEC, KE, (KURIUKA, J M)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006